

Academic Council Minutes

December 2025

Midwestern State University

The Academic Council met Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dillard College of Business Administration Priddy Conference Room.

Voting Members:

Dr. Bob Brennan, Dean, McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering
Leah Gose, Dean, Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts
Dr. Leann Curry, Dean, Gordon T. and Ellen West College of Education & Professional Studies
Dr. Jeff Killion, Dean, Robert D. and Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services
Dr. Robert Forrester, Dean, Dillard College of Business Administration
Dr. Sam Watson, Dean, Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Dr. Tiffany Ziegler, Dean, Dr. Billie Doris McAda Graduate School
Dr. Darla Diltz, Faculty Senate Vice Chair
Monique Watkins, SGA Vice President of External Affairs

Additional Attendees:

Dr. Kristen Garrison, Associate Vice President for Academic Innovation and Success
Dr. Jeremy Duff, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Accreditation and Planning
Leah Hickman, Senior Associate Director, Admissions
Dr. Susan Harvey, Core Curriculum Committee Chair
Kenley O'Brien, Associate Registrar
Cortny Moorehead, University Librarian, Moffett Library
Rhiannon Barnett, Global Education representative
Elizabeth Ysasi, Associate Director of Admissions; Staff Senate representative
Dr. Eboneigh Harris, Director, Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Matthew Bailey, Director, Wichita Falls Museum of Art

Dr. Margaret Brown Marsden, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presided and the meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Brown Marsden asked for a motion for the November 2025 minutes to be brought forward for approval. Dr. Forrester made a motion, Ms. Gose seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Old Business

Dr. Brown Marsden noted the next TTUS Board of Regents meeting will be in February 2026.

New Business

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences – Dr. Watson

1. Dr. Watson submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Ms. Gose seconded the motion and the items were approved.

Effective: Fall 2026

Point of contact: Sally Henschel

English, B.A., English Language Arts and Reading with Secondary Certification (Grades 7-12)

General

(See General Requirements for all Bachelor's Degrees)

Bachelor of Arts Degree with Secondary Certification (Grades 7-12)

(See Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree with Secondary Certification (Grades 7-12)).

Major: English - 40 hours

- ENGL 2013 - Introduction to English Studies 3
 - ENGL 3203 - Technical Writing 3
 - ENGL 3213 - Digital and New Media Rhetoric 3
 - ENGL 3503 - Advanced Survey of Literature 3
 - ENGL 3513 - Advanced Grammar 3
 - ENGL 4001 - Senior Capstone 1
 - ENGL 4013 - Introduction to Composition Studies 3

 - ENGL 4533 - Literary Theory and Criticism 3
- OR
- ENGL 4553 - Rhetorical Theory and Criticism 3

Communication - 6 hours*

(ENGL 1143 is required as one of the three hours; see Communication courses for selections of the other three hours.)

Sophomore Literature - 6 hours*

(See English Department Course Emphases)

3 of these hours will be taken as part of the Language, Philosophy, & Culture area of the core. The other 3 hours are listed below under Other Requirements.

Additional 3000-4000 level courses - 6 hours

Six additional hours from 3000-4000 level courses. (See course listing in the English Department.)

Note:

*12 hours are duplicated in Academic Foundations and Core Curriculum and Other Requirements but the total program hours do not change.

Reading Concentration - 6 hours

- READ 4223 - Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Difficulties 3
- READ 4403 - Content Literacy 3

Other Requirements - 23 hours

- EDUC 4233 - Undergraduate Action Research 3 semester hours
- ENGL 2823 - Survey of English Literature II 3
- EPSY 3153 - Educational Psychology 3

Foreign Language - 14 hours

Professional Education - 21 hours

Foundation Courses - 9 hours

Students must have passed TSI or equivalent and 60 semester hours.

- **EDUC 3100 – Teacher Certification Orientation and Foundational Concepts 0**
- EDUC 3163 - Classroom Management 3
- EDUC 3183 - Classroom Assessment 3
- SPED 3623 - Teaching Students with Special Needs in Inclusive Settings 3

Reading Block - 9 hours

Student must have finished Foundation Courses and be admitted to the Teacher Education Program before enrolling.

- ETEC 4003 - Advanced Technology Integration 3
- READ 4233 - Methods of Teaching Intermediate and Secondary Reading 3

- READ 4243 - Methods of Teaching Intermediate and Secondary Language Arts 3

To be taken in last semester - 3 hours

- EDUC 4173 - Clinical Teaching for Undergraduate Students 3

Total Semester Hours - 120

2. Dr. Watson submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion and the items were approved.

History-Social Studies, B.A. with Secondary Certification (Grades 7-12)

General

(See General Requirements for all Bachelor's Degrees)

Bachelor of Arts Degree with Secondary Certification (Grades 7-12)

(See Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree with Secondary Certification (Grades 7-12)).

Major: History - 30 hours

HIST 1133 - Survey of American History to 1865 3 *

HIST 1233 - Survey of American History since 1865 3 *

HIST 1353 - World Civilizations to 1500 3

HIST 1433 - Survey of Western Civilization 3

HIST 1453 - World Civilizations since 1500 3

HIST 3003 - Survey of Texas History 3

HIST 4433 - Twentieth Century Europe 3

Advanced U.S. History - 3 hours

Advanced European History - 3 hours

Advanced Non-U.S., Non-European History - 3 hours

Note:

*6 hours are duplicated in Academic Foundations and Core Curriculum but the total program hours do not change.

Interdisciplinary Minor for History-Social Studies Major - 15 hours

POLS 1333 - American and Texas Government I 3 *

POLS 1433 - American and Texas Government II 3 *

POLS 2523 - Foundations of Government and Politics 3

POLS 3313 - Introduction to Political Theory 3

GEOG 3003 - Geography of the World 3

OR

GEOG 3013 - Geography of North America 3

Note:

*6 hours are duplicated in Academic Foundations and Core Curriculum but the total program hours do not change.

Other Requirements - 23 hours

EDUC 4233 - Undergraduate Action Research 3 semester hours

EPSY 3153 - Educational Psychology 3

3 hours sophomore literature or humanities

14 hours foreign language (1134, 1234, 2133, 2233 sequence)

Professional Education - 24 hours

Foundation Courses - 9 hours

Student must have passed TSI or equivalent and 60 semester hours.

EDUC 3100 – Teacher Certification Orientation and Foundational Concepts 0

EDUC 3163 - Classroom Management 3

EDUC 3183 - Classroom Assessment 3

SPED 3623 - Teaching Students with Special Needs in Inclusive Settings 3

Block A - 12 hours

Student must be admitted to the Teacher Education Program before enrolling.

EDUC 4066 - Teaching Methods in Social Studies (Middle and High School) 6

ETEC 4003 - Advanced Technology Integration 3

READ 4403 - Content Literacy 3

To be taken in last semester - 3 hours

EDUC 4173 - Clinical Teaching for Undergraduate Students 3

Total Semester Hours - 122

McCoy College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering – Dr. Brennan

3. Dr. Brennan submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Killion seconded the motion and the items were approved.

B.S. in Biology

Biology Option E1 (3+1) accepted into their clinical program take their final year of coursework at the affiliated hospital. In the past, these students have then not been considered MSU students, even though they remain so and will earn their degree from MSU. This has practical impacts on access to campus resources and financial aid. The creation of these Practicum courses more formally place their clinical coursework into the Biology degree framework and maintain their status as MSU students.

Effective: Fall 2026

The requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in biology may be satisfied in any of the following areas of emphasis.

- A. Molecular-cellular option
- B. Organismal option
- C. Pre-Professional
 - i. C1 - Pre-medical option
 - ii. C2 - Pre-veterinary option
 - iii. C3 - Pre-dental option
 - iv. C4 - Pre-pharmacy option
- D. Pre-physical therapy option

For advancement as a pre-professional student seeking to gain admission to professional school (Medical, Dental, Veterinary Medicine, Physician's Assistant, Pharmacy, etc.), it is expected that students in options C and D will gain experience, formally or informally, in how these practices are run. This experience can be gained through employment, paid or unpaid internships, volunteering, or other instances where students can observe the various aspects of a professional practice.

- E. Medical Laboratory Science
 - i. E1 - Medical Laboratory Science (3+1) option
 - ii. E2 - Medical Laboratory Science (4+1) option

Requirements for a BS in Biology – Option E1 – Medical Laboratory Science (3+1) - ~~25~~ **55** semester hours

- BIOL 1114 - Life I: Molecular & Cellular Concepts 4
- BIOL 1214 - Life II: Evolution and Ecology 4
- BIOL 3114 - Zoology: Animal Life 4
- OR
- BIOL 3214 - Botany: Plant Life 4
- BIOL 3314 - General Microbiology 4
- BIOL 3334 - Genetics 4
- BIOL 4001 - Seminar in Biology 1
- BIOL 4021 - Immunology Laboratory 1
- BIOL 4023 - Immunology 3
- **BIOL 4110 – Medical Laboratory Sciences Practicum I 15**
- **BIOL 4120 – Medical Laboratory Sciences Practicum II 15**

Additional Program Requirements for Option E1 - Medical Laboratory Science (3+1)

- CHEM 1141 - General Chemistry Laboratory 1
- CHEM 1143 - General Chemistry 3
- CHEM 1241 - General Chemistry Laboratory 1
- CHEM 1243 - General Chemistry 3
- CHEM 2001 - Organic Chemistry I Laboratory 1
- CHEM 2003 - Organic Chemistry I 3

- CHEM 2011 - Organic Chemistry II Laboratory 1
- CHEM 2013 - Organic Chemistry II 3
- CHEM 4243 - Biochemistry 3

- CMPS 1013 - Computer Concepts and Applications 3
- OR
- CMPS 1023 - The Digital Culture 3
- STAT 3573 - Probability and Statistics 3

Additional Advanced Course - 4 hours

Four advanced hours from BIOL or CHEM (see list of approved courses following Option E2, below.

Note:

~~Upon completion of academic coursework, the student will apply for acceptance to a Hospital- or University-based Practicum consisting of 30 semester hours (advanced hours).~~

Course Inventory Updates – Effective Fall 2026:

New Course Additions

Course Prefix: **BIOL**

Course Number: **4110**

Course Title: **Medical Laboratory Sciences Practicum I**

Prerequisite(s): **Completion of BIOL Option E1 coursework. Acceptance into a Medical Laboratory Sciences Clinical Program.**

Description: **Completed at an affiliated clinical institution. On-site lecture and supervised laboratory instruction related to the clinical laboratory. Topics include: Introduction to the Clinical Laboratory, Laboratory Operations, Laboratory Safety, Hematology, Blood Banking, Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Microbiology, and Blood Fluid Analysis (serology, urinalysis).**

Lec/Lab Hrs: **0-15**

Type of Course: **Practicum**

Course Objectives:

Apply fundamental concepts learned in on-campus coursework to the clinical laboratory setting

Demonstrate proficiency in standard techniques used in the clinical laboratory

Demonstrate professionalism and teamwork skills
Prepare to sit for national certification exam (ASCP Board of Certification)

Course Prefix: **BIOL**

Course Number: **4120**

Course Title: **Medical Laboratory Sciences Practicum II**

Prerequisite(s): **Completion of BIOL Option E1 coursework. Acceptance into a Medical Laboratory Sciences Clinical Program.**

Description: **Completed at an affiliated clinical institution. Rotations through each department in the clinical laboratory at the host institution, including: Phlebotomy, Hematology, Blood Banking, Clinical Chemistry, Clinical Microbiology, and Blood Fluid Analysis (serology, urinalysis)**

Lec/Lab Hrs: **0-15**

Type of Course: **Practicum**

Course Objectives:

Apply fundamental concepts learned in on-campus coursework to the clinical laboratory setting

Demonstrate proficiency in standard techniques used in the clinical laboratory

Demonstrate professionalism and teamwork skills

Prepare to sit for national certification exam (ASCP Board of Certification)

4. Dr. Brennan submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Ms. Gose seconded the motion and the items were approved.

Biology Minor

Effective Fall 2026

Courses must be selected in consultation with chair.

Requirements for a Minor in Biology - ~~16~~ **20** semester hours

- BIOL 1114 - Life I: Molecular & Cellular Concepts 4
- BIOL 1214 - Life II: Evolution and Ecology 4

- BIOL 3104 - Fundamental Genetics 4

OR

- BIOL 3334 - Genetics 4 (with permission of instructor)

Additional Advanced **Biology** Courses - 4 **8** semester hours

~~An additional 4 semester hours, which must be advanced. Course must be selected in consultation with chair.~~

5. Dr. Brennan submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion and the items were approved.

The department no longer teaches BIOL 2114 so this prerequisite should be changed. The “8 semester hours of biology” language matches the prerequisite language for most of our upper-level courses.

Change of Course Prerequisite

Course Prefix: BIOL

Course Number: 4673

Course Title: Desert Ecology

Prerequisite(s): ~~BIOL 2114~~ **Eight semester hours of biology, each course** with a grade of C or better; BIOL 4684 recommended

Lec/Lab Hrs: 3(2-2)

Type of Course: Lecture/Lab

6. Dr. Brennan submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion and the items were approved.

Course Inventory Updates – Effective Fall 2026:

Change of Course Title

Course Prefix: CHEM

Course Number: 1141

Course Title: General Chemistry Lab**oratory I**

Course Prefix: CHEM
 Course Number: 1143
 Course Title: General Chemistry **I**

Course Prefix: CHEM
 Course Number: 1241
 Course Title: General Chemistry **Laboratory II**

Course Prefix: CHEM
 Course Number: 1243
 Course Title: General Chemistry **II**

7. Dr. Brennan submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Forrester seconded the motion and the items were approved.

Course Inventory Updates – Effective Fall 2026:

The prerequisite is preventing our BS-CMPS majors from taking it, since they do not take statistics. Also, since our majors may not take CMPS 3603, they'll still be successful because they take 1044/1063/2143/3013 in before their junior year.

Change of Course Prerequisite

Course Prefix: CMPS
 Course Number: 4543
 Course Title: Topics in Data Science
 Prerequisite(s): (STAT 3573 **or MATH 4143** or BUAD 3033 or PSYC 3313 or SOCL 3313 and 'C' or better in CMPS 3603) **OR (CMPS 3013 AND CMPS-BS Major).**
 Description:
 Lec/Lab Hrs: 3(3-0)

8. Dr. Brennan submitted the following undergraduate items for approval. Dr. Ziegler seconded the motion and the items were approved.

Course Inventory Updates – Effective Fall 2026:

Enhancing content and reference to other GEOS curriculum (senior level). Increasing subscription by providing cross-list with graduate course. Required course for GEOE majors

Change of Course Number, Course Title, Prerequisite, and Description

Course Prefix: GEOS

Course Number: ~~3014~~ **4014**

Course Title: ~~Meteorology, Climate, and Climate Change~~ **Atmospheric and Climate Science**

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 1134 or GEOS 1234 ~~or CHEM 1143 or CHEM 1243 or BIOL 1144~~; or GNSC 1104 and GNSC 1204; or the consent of the instructor.

Description: This course focuses on the essential aspects of meteorology, ~~climate~~, and climate variability **science** as evidenced in the geological ~~record~~ and historical record, as well as the ~~mathematics and physics~~ **principles** that underlie the ~~numerical~~ models used to forecast weather (~~short term~~) and climate (~~long term~~). Material covered includes the composition and structure of the Earth's atmosphere, weather ~~at the local scale~~ (temperature, wind, clouds, fronts, precipitation, and severe weather **storms**), weather forecasting, climate zones of the Earth, variation of climate ~~as documented in the historical record as well as the geological record~~, climate modeling, and climate forecasting. Laboratory sessions will reinforce the lecture topics and will include descriptive, ~~hands-on~~, and numerical exercises.

Lec/Lab Hrs: 3-2

Type of Course: Lecture/Lab

Course Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of the atmosphere's composition, the energy budget of the atmosphere, and the physical principles that govern the behavior and development of weather systems.
- Explain the role of weather models in weather forecasting; including how weather models are structured and operate, and the limits of models in forecasting weather.
- Distinguish between weather and climate; recognize the spatial and temporal limits of weather phenomena and their relationship to concepts of regional and global climate.
- Evaluate the scientific evidence explaining how climate has changed in the geologic past and how the climate is changing in the present.
- Assess the methods of mitigation and the effectiveness of societal response to the hazards presented by weather phenomena and changing climate.

Course Inventory Updates – Effective Fall 2026:

Enhancing content and reference to other GEOS curriculum (senior level). Increasing subscription by providing cross-list with graduate course. Provides better leveling for non-major M.S. students.

Change of Course Number, Prerequisite, and Description

Course Prefix: GEOS

Course Number: **4704** ~~3734~~

Course Title: Geomorphology

Prerequisite(s): GEOS 1134 **or** GEOS 1234, or consent of the instructor.

Description: This course will focus of the relationship between landforms and the ~~earth~~-surface processes that create and modify them, **on Earth with extension to other planetary bodies.**

Students will learn how the discipline of geomorphology has grown into a modern scientific pursuit applicable to geology, geography, and environmental science. Topics will include weathering, soil development, mass movements, drainage basin development, and process-landform relationships (fluvial, aeolian, glacial, costal, and karst). Students will become familiar with the types of datasets used to describe and interpret landforms and processes. The course will incorporate lecture and laboratory components that will utilize literature readings, map interpretation, and statistical analysis.

Lec/Lab Hrs: 3-2

Type of Course: Lecture/Lab

Course Objectives:

- Investigate how surface processes act on landscapes to alter their characteristics.
- Relate landforms and their characteristics to the surface processes acting on the landform in modern and ancient times.
- Identify and describe landforms from direct observations in the field and through maps, imagery, and remote sensing data.
- Develop skills in conducting geological investigations and sharing results through oral and written presentation methods.
- Recognizing the impacts of human society on the characteristics of landforms and on the processes acting to form them.

Graduate Course and Catalog Changes – Dr. Ziegler

9. Dr. Ziegler submitted the following graduate items for approval. Dr. Forrester seconded the motion and the items were approved.

McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

Course Inventory/Catalog Changes Effective Fall 2026

Geosciences, M.S.

Broad topic relevant to a large swath of graduate students. Increasing subscription by providing cross-list with undergraduate course. Provides content for environmental science-oriented grad students.

New Course Addition

Course Prefix: **GEOS**

Course Number: **5014**

Course Title: ~~Meteorology, Climate, and Climate Change~~ **Atmospheric and Climate Science**

Prerequisite(s): **none**

Description: **This course focuses on the essential aspects of meteorology and climate science as evidenced in the geological and historical record, as well as the principles that underlie the models used to forecast weather and climate. Material covered includes the composition of the atmosphere, weather (temperature, wind, clouds, fronts, precipitation, and severe storms), weather forecasting, climate zones of the Earth, variation of climate, climate modeling, and climate forecasting. Laboratory sessions will reinforce the lecture topics and will include descriptive, hands-on, and numerical activities. Students in this course will assess the impact of global climate change on the northern Texas regional climate and weather trends.**

Lec/Lab Hrs: **4(3-2)**

Type of Course: **Lecture and Lab**

Course Objectives:

- **Develop an understanding of the atmosphere's composition, the energy budget of the atmosphere, and the physical principles that govern the behavior and development of weather systems.**
- **Explain the role of weather models in weather forecasting; including how weather models are structured and operate, and the limits of models in forecasting weather.**
- **Distinguish between weather and climate; recognize the spatial and temporal limits of weather phenomena and their relationship to concepts of regional and global climate.**
- **Evaluate the scientific evidence explain how climate has changed in the geologic past and how the climate is changing in the present.**
- **Assess the methods of mitigation and the effectiveness of societal response to the hazards presented by weather phenomena and changing climate.**
- **Assess the impacts of changing global climate on local climate and weather systems.**

Broad topic relatable to entire graduate cohort. Enhancing content and reference to other GEOS curriculum. Increasing subscription by providing cross-list with undergraduate course. Provides better leveling for non-major M.S. students

New Course Addition

Course Prefix: GEOS

Course Number: 5704

Course Title: Geomorphology

Prerequisite(s): none

Description: This course will focus of the relationship between landforms and the earth surface processes that create and modify them, on Earth with extension to other planetary bodies. Students will learn how the discipline of geomorphology has grown into a modern scientific pursuit applicable to geology, geography, and environmental science. Topics will include weathering, soil development, mass movements, drainage basin development, and process-landform relationships (fluvial, aeolian, glacial, costal, and karst). Students will become familiar with the types of datasets used to describe and interpret landforms and processes. The course will incorporate lecture and laboratory components that will utilize literature readings, map interpretation, and statistical analysis. Students in this course will evaluate local landforms to determine weathering rates and alteration throughout the semester in response to local weather events.

Lec/Lab Hrs: 4(3-2)

Type of Course: Lecture and Lab

Course Objectives:

- Investigate how surface processes act on landscapes to alter their characteristics.
- Relate landforms and their characteristics to the surface processes acting on the landform in modern and ancient times.
- Identify and describe landforms from direct observation in the field and through maps, imagery, and remote sensing data.
- Develop skills in conducting geological investigations and sharing results through oral and written presentation methods.
- Recognizing the impacts of human society on the characteristics of landforms and on the processes acting to form them.
- Students will directly evaluate weathering rates and alterations of landforms in the field.

Adjournment:

Dr. Brown Marsden asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Forrester made a motion to adjourn. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Boerma

Assistant to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs